1. How would you feel if you discovered you were going to be unwound? What would you do? If you didn’t want to go along, but couldn’t run away like Connor and the others in the novel, what other options might you have?
2. How would you feel if you were in an accident, or had a rare disease, and you could only be cured if your damaged organs were replaced by parts taken from unwound teens. What would you choose to do? What if you were certain to die if you refused the parts? What if it wasn’t you, but someone you loved (a parent, a sibling) who was in an accident? Would your answer be different?
3. *When* do you think the story takes place? The book never reveals the year. How many years in the future do you think the story take place? What clues hint at how much time has passed? What companies or products are named? What are the similarities between the world of *Unwind* and our own world? What are the differences?
4. Which of the three main characters, Connor, Risa or Lev, do you most identify with? Why? What traits do you have in common? Which of their traits work for them, and which make their lives harder? Which of your own traits would you like to give up? Which would you want to keep?
5. While being transported to possible safety, some of the kids on the run, considering their fate, wonder, “Would it be better to die or be unwound?” If given the choice, which would you choose? Why?
6. Another question the kids in the book discuss is, “If every part of you is still alive but inside someone else, are you alive or are you dead?” They also wonder if consciousness can exist even if it’s spread out, and if the soul remains intact? What do you think?
7. Which adults in the story are depicted sympathetically? Which do you feel are non-sympathetic? Do any shift from one to the other? How did the author describe these characters to make you feel one way or the other about them?
8. Risa is assigned to play in a band at a Harvest Camp, performing upbeat tunes while teens are marched to their unwinding. Risa is conflicted: she knows playing in the band will keep her alive longer, but it’s at the expense of others, and her joy at having her fingers on a piano is matched by the horror of knowing what’s going on around her. How would you feel in this situation? Would you accept the position? Are there any situations in history similar to this?
9. What positive consequences you can imagine would be realized by a society where unwinding exists? What are the negatives? Do you think the negatives outweigh the positives, or the other way around?
10. In the novel, unwinding becomes big business, as there’s a lot of money to be made from ill people and accident victims requiring fresh organs, and the population looks the other way, not considering the source. Do you think this actually goes on today or could in the near future?
11. Imagine that you are approached to join the Clappers, the novel’s futuristic terrorists. How would you respond? What would you tell them?
12. The bully, Roland, makes life hard for Connor and Risa from the time they meet him. What do you think of his ultimate payback? Did you think it was fair? Was it satisfying, or did it make you squirm. Or both? Why?